

In the Claims:

This listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of Claims in the Application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) A single pass compression method for regulating compression of serialized input data as a function of a measure of said compression method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising a step of:

a) converting a source data image into a series of blocks, said series including a first block, an intermediate block blocks, and a last block;

wherein, said regulating includes

b) determining a baseline target block size based upon a target compression ratio for said source data;

c) for each block in turn, determining a current target block size, the current target block size for said first block being said baseline target block size, the current target block size for said intermediate block blocks and said last block blocks being equal to the said current baseline target block size plus an accumulating savings associated with the preceding block in said series;

d) for each block in turn, selecting a compression mode guaranteed to compress that block so that the resulting compressed block fits its corresponding target block size as determined in step c; and

e) for each block in turn, compress compressing the block using the compression mode selected in step d to yield a corresponding compressed block;

3. (Currently amended) A method as recited in Claim 2 19 wherein step f involves comprises determining the size of the compressed block resulting from step e and determining said savings in part as a function of said size.

4. (Currently amended) A method as recited in Claim 2 wherein step d ~~involves comprises~~ analyzing the content of the block and selecting said compression mode in part as a function of results of that analysis.
5. (Currently amended) A method as recited in Claim 4 wherein said mode is selected from mode families, said mode families including an n-color mode family including lossless n-color compression modes, and a BTC-VQ mode family including ~~lossly~~ lossy BTC-VQ compression modes.
6. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 5 wherein each block with fewer than a predetermined number of distinct colors is assigned to said n-color family.
7. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 5 wherein said families further include a raw mode family including at least a degenerate raw compression mode in which the current block is transmitted uncompressed.
8. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 5 wherein said families further include an interpolated mode family including plural interpolation modes.
9. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 2 wherein said source image is a compound document.
10. (Currently amended) A method as recited in Claim 4 ~~wherein~~ wherein said function is greedy with respect to a target block size.
11. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ A single pass ~~image~~ compression system comprising:
an encoder for sequentially compressing for sequentially compressing a series of ~~source-image~~ source blocks, said encoder implementing plural compression modes with respective predetermined maximum compressed block sizes;
a mode selector coupled to said encoder for selecting one of said compression modes

for compressing a given ~~one of said source-image blocks~~ source block, said mode selector selecting ~~one of said a compression modes mode~~ at least in part as a function of a target block size for a current ~~source-image source~~ block; and

an evaluator for determining the target block size for each of said ~~source-image source~~ blocks; and

an allocator for determining a baseline target block size based upon a target compression ratio for said series of source blocks.

12. (Currently amended) A system as recited in Claim 11 wherein said evaluator includes a block-size reader for determining the block size of a compressed block resulting from compressing of a respective ~~source-image source~~ block, said evaluator determining said target block size in part as a function of the size of said compressed block.

13. (Currently amended) A system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said mode selector selects a compression mode for a current ~~image~~ block in part as a function of its content.

14. (Currently amended) A system as recited in Claim 13 wherein said mode selector ~~includes assigns some of said source-image source blocks to an n-color mode family of n-color compression modes and other source-image source blocks to a BTC-VQ mode family of BTC-VQ compression modes.~~

15. (Currently amended) A system as recited in Claim 14 wherein said mode selector assigns some of said ~~source-image source~~ blocks to a raw mode family of modes including an uncompressed raw mode.

16. (Original) A system as recited in Claim 15 wherein said raw mode family also includes truncated raw modes.

17. (Currently amended) A system as recited in Claim 16 wherein said mode selector assigns some of said ~~source-image source~~ blocks to a family of interpolated compression modes.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (New) The method as recited in Claim 2, further comprising:

f) for each of said first and intermediate blocks in turn, determining said accumulated savings as a function of the size of the compressed block resulting from step e.